

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4837, a bill making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ted Stevens, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, Chuck Grassley, Norm Coleman, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Sam Brownback, Mitch McConnell, George Allen, Craig Thomas, Orrin Hatch, Richard Lugar, Mike DeWine, Gordon Smith.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4567, the homeland security appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the motion is agreed to. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4567), making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of today, October 9, 2004.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4567, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Wayne Allard, Chuck Grassley, Norm Coleman, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Sam Brownback, Mitch McConnell, George Allen, Craig Thomas, Orrin Hatch, Richard Lugar, Mike DeWine, Gordon Smith.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the two live

quorums with respect to these conference reports be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SPECIALIST ALLEN JEFFREY "A J." VANDAYBURG

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise this evening to say thank you to the men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Too often, we don't take the time to show our appreciation and tell them what their service means to us. They are there for us each day, dedicated to protecting all that we hold dear. They are there for us, making our world more secure. They are there for us, making our world a better place—a safer place. They are there for us, protecting our freedom.

That freedom, though, as we know so well, does not come without a price. It does not come without sacrifice. As General Douglas MacArthur once said:

The soldier, above all other men, is required to perform the highest act of religious teaching—sacrifice. . . . The soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.

This evening, I rise to honor a Mansfield, OH, serviceman who selflessly gave his life while saving those of his comrades. Army SP Allen Jeffrey Vandayburg—"A.J." to his family and friends—earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his final act of bravery—an act that ultimately saved the lives of the men and women serving with him.

On April 9, 2004, in Barez, Iraq, A.J. and other members of the Army's 1st Infantry Division—the "Big Red One"—found themselves in the middle of a fierce firefight with Iraqi insurgents. A.J. was manning the gunner position of his Bradley fighting vehicle when his unit was fired upon. According to an official Army report, A.J. fought valiantly, drawing enemy fire to himself. The report detailed the following:

Vandayburg's unparalleled reflexes allowed him to destroy an [enemy] who was attempting to fire a rocket propelled grenade within 50 meters of his vehicle. Vandayburg had to swivel the entire turret, acquire the target, and destroy the enemy before the rocket-propelled grenade could be fired.

A.J. prevented that grenade from hitting his convoy. He saved many lives that day—an act that ultimately took his own life. His valiant efforts prompted the insurgents to focus their fire on his vehicle. A.J. was killed in the onslaught. He was just 20 years old.

A.J. was truly a great soldier—a courageous young man who put the safety of others above his own. We will never be able to repay A.J. for what he has done, and we will never be able to honor him the way he truly deserves. We can, however, remember this American hero as he was—as a strong, independent young man who did a great deal of good in this world.

In his all too brief 20 years, A.J. touched many lives. His mother, Chantil, fondly recalls that "everybody loved him." It was his smile; it was hard to stay mad at him." A.J.'s father, Allen, remembers that he was the kind of kid who could walk into a room and just light it up.

A.J. loved his family very much. In the summers, A.J. always looked forward to their family vacation to Myrtle Beach, SC. A.J. loved kids. Family friend, Kim Loveland, recalled that she would pay A.J. to watch her children, only to have him turn around and use the money to buy the kids candy.

A.J. went to Mansfield High School, where he played golf and baseball. He was known as a "good guy" who had a lot of good friends. After graduation in 2001, A.J. enlisted in the Army. He would eventually serve in Kosovo, Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq. Allen and Chantil Vandayburg treasure the picture they have of their son with children in Kosovo. Allen likes to call A.J. "a warrior who also had a soft side."

A.J. was a lot like his father. Allen is a 25-year veteran of the Mansfield Police Department. A.J. learned from his dad the value of public service and how to trust your comrades—lessons he would bring with him overseas. A.J.'s parents knew that their son believed in what he was doing in Iraq. A.J. e-mailed them as often as he could and would tell them not to worry—that he trusted his fellow soldiers and knew they would look out for him. In his final battle, it was A.J. who paid the ultimate sacrifice for his comrades and for Iraqis he did not know.

A friend of A.J.'s, Nathan Pival, who is serving in Afghanistan, posted the following message on a Web site honoring A.J.:

A.J.—I found out what happened to you my first week in Afghanistan. To say the least, I felt like a piece of me died, too. I mean, who would have thought that you and me would end up in the Army after high school? I know you didn't find out I was in the service until you tried to call my cell when I was in Basic, but I want you to know that you were the person that helped to convince me that the military would help me out. It has helped me. . . . You are a hero, and you did the right thing, and that is what matters. I believe in a higher purpose, so I know I will see you again some day, but I'm still pretty upset that I am going to have to wait so long to tell my Army stories to my buddy who motivated me to join. If it wasn't for you, I'd probably . . . be going nowhere. I'm sorry I couldn't be there for you man. See you again someday.

A.J.'s family found solace in the final act of devotion from one brother to another. Though he described it as "the hardest thing I've ever had to do,"